GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3125
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2016
Decrease in Depth of River Beds
Phoole Sushree Sadhvi Savitri Bai

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared any plan to improve the condition of decreasing depth of river beds;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said plan is likely to be implemented;
(c) whether there is any scheme of the Government to address the decreasing water level in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the future plan in this regard and the time by which the aim of providing water to all throughout the year is likely to be achieved?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(DR SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b) Erosion and deposition of silt is a natural process in alluvial rivers. The rivers pick up and drop their silt load as per their regime condition. The decrease in depth of river bed is caused due to siltation of river beds in specific reaches, which depends on various factors viz. discharge in the river, river slope, morphology, nature of silt etc. In 2006, a Committee headed by Dr B.K. Mittal, former Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) had studied the siltation pattern in few rivers in India and concluded that siltation was not pronounced and alarming. The Committee also found that de-silting in general was not feasible technically due to several reasons like non sustainability, non availability of vast land required for the disposal of dredged material etc. However, cost effective measures for removal of drainage congestion in specific reaches of rivers for channel capacity improvement and navigation purposes are formulated and implemented by concerned States / Agencies as per requirement.

(c) & (d) The schemes for water resources development including the problems of decreasing water levels are formulated and implemented by concerned States. However, the Union Governments supplements the efforts of the states by providing technical advice and promotional financial assistance to State Governments to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) under its various components PMKSY-Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP); and PMKSY-Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP) which also includes the schemes under Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM), Repair, Renovation and Restoration(RRR) of water bodies and Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI).

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